Demand XIII—General Administration—Rs. 1,000.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 1,000 under "XIII-General Administration".

In the budget, as voted by the Legislative Council for the current year, a lump provision of Rs. 1,000 has been made under "XIII-General Administration—I. Huzur Secretariat" towards expenses on account of the Special Finance Committee. Against this, the expenditure sanctioned up to date on account of the Committee comes to Rs. 1,146—8—8 as follows:—

Travelling allowance	Rs.	560	12	0
Allowance for the clerical work and typing work of the Committee granted monthly	,,	331	2	8
Cost of typewriting and duplicator accessories	,,	238	0	0
Cooly and freight charges ...	,,	16	10	0
Total	Rs.	1,146	8	8

This is in excess of the sanctioned budget grant by Rs. 146—8—8. As further expenses will have to be incurred on account of the Committee during the remaining months, it is necessary to raise the grant under the head by Rs. 1,000. This will take the total grant under the head to Rs. 2,000 for the year. I request that the Council will sanction the additional amount.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—On a point of information. How far has the work of the Special Finance Committee progressed? Has their term been extended?

President.—At what stage is it now?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Is not the whole thing confidential, Sir, under your orders?

President.—He asks only how far it has advanced, at what stage it is, and how long it will take to finish its work.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—We have published certain questionaires, and we are expecting replies till the 5th. And then, we are going to consider these questions in connection with the draft.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The question is how long it will take.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—That I cannot say.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—That is a matter concerning 14 people.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will their work be over before the next general election?

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President.—All that they are in a position to assure is that they will expedite the matter, as far as possible.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That is our request also.

President.—But, I tell you, they won't be able to fix a date.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—It is long ago that the Committee was appointed, and I hope the Finance Member will be able to give us at least a probable date.

President.—Dr. Menon, I will tell you. It is only those who are working in it that know what difficulties they have to solve, and what are the troubles in their way. All these are known only to them. We, on-lookers, might say "you are taking such a long time, you have already taken too much time, and, therefore, you ought not to be allowed one day more". They know the whole thing, when they are actually working. It is not the work of a single individual but the work of many, having different views on the subject. But have you any reason to think that they are purposely delaying?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Far from it. From the progress of the work, I hope the Finance Member will be able to say how long it will take.

President.—They thought, when they started the work, that they will be able to finish it very soon. But, as they proceeded with the work, the longer the time they took, the longer has become the work. They were under the impression that they would be able to finish it off in 6 months; and when that time is over, they say that they want one year more, because the work has multiplied.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Then, they will have to apply for another supplementary grant?

President.—Most probably.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Members are being deputed to study the work, and their reports are awaited.

President.—Don't you think that is a necessary piece of work?

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Certainly. I am one of the members, and so I stated the fact.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—The rumour is that some of the members go by the 3 o'clock train and return by the 5 o'clock train.

President.—These remarks will not be appreciated. You must also have a sort of *bona fide* belief. You should not think they neglect their work. There is no ground for believing that time is wasted and unnecessary travelling is done. I mean, with reference to Mr. Eachara Menon's observation—what is there to show that they are not doing it properly? We must

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have an open mind. The business before the Committee is a very difficult one. It is not exactly a Finance Committee. There are several administrative questions to be considered, and I think, if we do a thing, it must be done well, and there is no use hurrying over it. We want really a constructive scheme before the House. The longer the time taken, the more satisfactory will be the result.

Dr. A. G Menon.—But I have a request that it may be brought to an end before the life of this Council is over.

President.—The draft report is already ready. One part of the report, that on the Tramway, is already submitted to the Government; so that, you see, they are doing the work very briskly. We, who have nothing to do with the work, think they are leisurely doing the business, and that they do not hurry over the matter.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—We are going to consider soon chapters 2 and 3 of the draft.

Motions Nos. 1 to 3.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 under "XIII—General Administration, 1.—Huzur Secretariat, Special Finance Committee" by one rupee.*

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for "XIII—General Administration, 1.—Huzur Secretariat, Special Finance Committee' by one rupee.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 under "XIII—General Administration, 1.—Huzur Secretariat, Special Finance Committee" by Rs. 10.*

President.—Then, Mr. Nunez's cut motion.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Sir, it is not as regards the slow working of the Committee that I have anything to say. My idea is to bring to the notice of this Council that the Special Finance Committee was constituted, because there was a general feeling throughout the State that this State had too many appointments and posts more than what was necessary, and more than what the resources of the State could afford, and, therefore, the public as well as the members of the Special Finance Committee thought that, till the Committee would submit its report, no further appointments, either temporary or permanent, or granting of maximum pay would be made. Unfortunately, the public expectations have been belied, because, soon after the appointment of the Special Finance Committee, we heard that a large number of temporary hands were immediately confirmed, and we do not know why.

President.—Why all this discussion? What has it to do with the supplementary grant for an additional allotment?

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Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Sir, I am not expressing my opinion as a member of the Special Finance Committee, but as a Member of this Legislative Council, and as such, it is my duty to express the popular opinion. I may be wrong. But it is your duty Sir, to rule me out of order.

President.—We are on the question of travelling allowance, and what is the use of criticising the action of the Government here?

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Sir, it is a token motion. A token motion is generally brought into the House to bring to the notice of the House and through the House to the Government the opinions that are prevailing in connection with a grievance. Such a precedent has been fully established in this House, and I am only following it. Sir, some time after that, we came to know that certain temporary appointments were created, and, in the last Gazette, I find an advertisement for two Veterinary Inspectors and also the appointment of an Archæologist. We also find the creation of a Central Inspectorate on the ground that too many schools are growing. I do not understand how, at the fag end of the academic year, so many schools came into existence, and also the necessity for the creation of a Central Inspectorate.

President.—All those appointments are temporary, even that of this Inspector. As regards the Archæologist, nothing specific has been mentioned. They have not been made permanent.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Naturally, Sir, the public think that, after all, the appointment of the Special Finance Committee is only a sort of show, and has not that earnestness and seriousness which should characterise the working of that Committee.

And what is worse, Sir? More than once several Members have expressed their feelings in this House that something should be done for the relief of the low-paid clerks and menials. While high appointments are being created, and the number of such posts is being swelled, nothing has been done in the matter of granting at least a temporary relief to these unfortunate people. But, if only the Government expressed their sympathy towards these necessary elements in the administrative machinery without whose services the machinery cannot get on, the public would not have had any uneasiness in the matter of the creation of this Central Inspectorate in the Education Department or the appointment of Veterinary Inspectors or of the Archæologist or any such appointments. If, side by side with these appointments, some increase of pay, say two or three rupees, had been given to the menials also—even then, that would have been technically objectionable from the standpoint of the

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Special Finance Committee; if, as the Government has erred on the one side, it could have equally erred on the other also; then, it would have had a show of consistency.

Mr. C. Matthai.—Sir, may I offer a word of explanation in regard to the appointment of the Additional Inspector? From the Government order, the Hon'ble Member would have noticed that it is a purely temporary appointment made pending the Report of the Special Finance Committee. The Member said: "Did not the Government realise the necessity of the appointment, and did not the department get on well" and so on. If the Hon'ble Member wishes to know what actually took place, I may tell him that the Additional Inspector's post was proposed to be created three years ago, and every year I had been bringing it to the notice of the Government. The function of the Inspectors is to go about and see, if schools, especially aided elementary schools, are doing their work properly. We have committed ourselves to increasing the number of our elementary schools for the expansion of elementary education, and a large portion of the State revenue is spent on aided schools. Now, would it be true economy to increase the number of our schools and to spend large sums of money in the shape of grants-in-aid, and not visit these schools to which we give such liberal grants-in-aid? Should we not at least see, as far as possible, that these schools are inspected at least once a year? So that, from the point of view of economy, I think the creation of the Additional Inspectorate is an absolute necessity.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—On a point of information, Sir. You say that the number of schools have been increased. How many schools have been started this year?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Sixty-two Primary Schools in all.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I support the motion. The general public impression seems to be that the Special Finance Committee has not been able to complete its work, or do any substantial work up to this, perhaps on account of the whims and fancies of the members of the Committee.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—On a point of order, Sir. Does the Member speak from information?

President.—You are responsible for the statements you make.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Yes, I am responsible for the same. Every official member of the Committee wants to curtail the expenses of every department except his own, and he is immediately on the war-path when a serious suggestion is made to curtail the expenses of his own department! Whatever may be the reason, one thing appears to be true;

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viz., that more than one sitting of the Committee had to be adjourned without doing any good work, as the atmosphere became too hot.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Not at all.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—There was not a single occasion on which an adjournment was made. We used to sit for three hours.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Without doing any substantial work, perhaps.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I think I must protest as a member of the Special Finance Committee.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then, I withdraw the same.

I would, therefore, in fairness to public funds, appeal to the members of the Committee, both official and non-official, to make some sacrifice which may bring about a peaceful atmosphere and hasten the completion of the work, by agreeing to be satisfied with double second class allowance, at least for the remaining period, seeing that some members travel at times only in third class.

President.—Have you seen any member travelling in third class?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Yes, Sir. I have myself travelled in third class once.

President.—It does not fit in with the prestige and dignity of this House to make reference to such matters.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—If they do so, there will be no necessity for asking for more funds to complete its allotted work. The Special Finance Committee must thus, in fairness to its name, set an example to the other Committees that may have to be appointed from time to time.

It may not be out of place to suggest to this House that all members, both officials and non-officials, should be satisfied with double second class allowance for attending Council meetings.

The public also appear to have a belief that the proceedings of the Committee also were not of a harmonious nature, and as such, are not conducive to the beneficial results which all of us expect from the labours of this Committee.

My main object in supporting this is not due to any desire to hamper the work of the Committee, but it is only to bring these facts forcibly to the mind of the Committee and of the Government.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Sir, I have also tabled a motion to reduce the allotment by one rupee. The object of that motion is more or less the same as was detailed by the mover of the first motion, the Hon'ble Member for Anglo-Indians. I have only to emphasise one or two points more in regard to the

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attitude of the Government in the creation of these appointments.

It might be fresh in your mind, Sir, that, during the budget session of this year, when the Hon'ble Member for Trichur and the Hon'ble Member for Vyttila pressed for the immediate necessity of increasing the pay of menials and the low-paid officers in the Government service, the answer of the Government was that the whole thing depended upon the Report of the Special Finance Committee. When we pressed for certain minor reforms in the village administration of the State, the Government said they have placed the whole thing before the Special Finance Committee. When the Government wanted a report on the Tramway question, they were pleased to refer the matter to the Special Finance Committee. The Committee had to send an interim report. When a menial receiving Rs. 8 applied to the Head of the Department for a slight increase of pay, he was told—I have a definite instance in my mind—that his application has been referred to the Special Finance Committee. In all these matters, this was the attitude of the Government.

Now, I take the other side of the picture.

Did the Government extend the same courtesy to the Special Finance Committee in the matter of creating the Central Inspectorate? Had they wanted to be fair to the Special Finance Committee and to this House, they ought to have referred the necessity to create the Central Inspectorate to the Committee. It is not for me to divulge the attitude of the Special Finance Committee in regard to the reorganization of the Inspectorate.

President.—Mr. Matthai, why do you call it "Central Inspectorate"? Is it not "Additional Inspectorate"?

Mr. C. Matthai.—It is "Additional Inspectorate".

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I shall refer to it hereafter as "Additional Inspectorate."

If there was a real necessity to create the post of an Additional Inspector, the Government would have been doing the right thing, and would have added to the strength of their position by getting the Report of the Special Finance Committee. Why was this matter not referred to the Special Finance Committee? I expect an answer from the Government on this point.

Regarding the creation of the post of the Archæologist, it is not said that it is a temporary establishment. For aught I know, the incumbent may be a very worthy man, perhaps the fittest person for the post, but my point is that, when the Special Finance Committee has been asked to overhaul the whole system of administration, to suggest the creation of new posts and to send up suggestions for the abolition of superfluous posts, it is the duty of the Government, whenever it creates a new appointment, to refer the matter to the Special Finance Committee.

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President.—It is not a new post. There was an Archæologist who was not able to do his work properly, because he had to attend to other duties. He was not a full-timed officer, and so we thought it necessary to appoint the man to do the work.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I quite appreciate your explanation. But I may be allowed to observe that this is a difference without distinction. There was a gentleman who was holding another appointment, and who was receiving an allowance for his extra work. It was found that it was not possible for him to do this duty also, and a separate Archæologist had to be appointed. That is the position, and this position is not at all different from what I explained to you in a few words before.

President.—Though the appointment is made without consulting the Special Finance Committee, if it finds that his services are not required, we can send him away.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Are we not making matters worse by that? Had the matter been referred to the Special Finance Committee as to whether we want a separate Archæologist or not, then, there would have been a final decision. Now, a gentleman who has been following his own occupation has been appointed, and now, the Special Finance Committee is asked whether he is required or not. There is absolutely no objection, but you will please realise the practical difficulty in the way of our offering a suggestion to the Government and the Government's accepting the same, if the appointment is thought necessary by the Government (*Hear, hear*). It does not add to the prestige of the Government, once having appointed a man, to send him away after, perhaps, six months or so.

President.—If the Special Finance Committee comes to a decision that the post is unnecessary, and if the Government, on careful consideration, agrees with it, then, it can be abolished. What is the indignity about it? I cannot see anything.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—That will all depend upon the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee and the attitude of the Government towards those recommendations. Sending out a man according to the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee is only getting out of the difficulty which the Government has now created. Why was that post created without consulting the Special Finance Committee? When the policy of the Government has always been that such matters had to be considered by the Committee, and that the policy was to refer all these matters to the Special Finance Committee, why was this matter not referred to it? The House has a right to know why it was not referred. Where was the urgency of the matter? Why was a supplementary grant not demanded in this matter? Then, the House would have had an opportunity to discuss that. My point is that the Special Finance Committee was not treated in a courteous manner in this

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respect. The House was also not treated courteously. These are the positions.

And then, two Veterinary Surgeons have been advertised for. The travelling allowance given to the Special Finance Committee and its labours are useless, if the Government is going to have its own way. There is absolutely no meaning in continuing the Special Finance Committee. It is to draw the attention of the House as well as that of the Government to the creation of these new appointments that I have tabled this motion. I do not move it as a separate motion. But I support the motion brought forward by the Hon'ble Member for Anglo-Indians.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I have only one or two words to say. I am very sorry to find several Members are attacking the appointment of the Archæologist. Whether the Special Finance Committee should have been consulted about that matter it is a matter with which I am not concerned. I am only concerned with the appointment of the Archæologist. I say that such an appointment is absolutely necessary. Some Members may say that it is a mere waste of money to have the Museum or the Archæological Department. I should think that our Education Department would be only more perfect, if we have a department—a Scientific Department—also. We should probably have a very efficient man in charge of the Museum. I understand that the present Archæologist who was appointed is a gentleman who has had special training in that and a very efficient individual too. I shall only be more glad, if the Government would spend some more money for this department. Though this House has got that privilege to recommend to the Government, I would request the Government not to do it. I am afraid, if the Finance Committee reports that such an appointment is not necessary, the Government may even send away the man. If such a thing should happen, it is a matter of extreme regret. If the Special Finance Committee sends up a report like that, and if the Government, on consideration, agrees with its views, then, it will be a great calamity. In my opinion, the post is very necessary, and the sum spent on it is not to be considered as a was teat all.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, our complaint is not about the appointment. I say deliberately in this Council that difference has been shown between those who are able to look after themselves and those who are unable to do so. (*Hear, hear.*) In all arrangements you will find, if you refer to the Gazette, that the man at the top can do anything, can subordinate the whole interest of the State to his own selfish ends, whereas the "poor devil" (it is a Parliamentary expression) at the foot of the ladder is left uncared for. I say the interests of the poor subordinates have been sacrificed ruthlessly, and in one instance where a poor man, who was getting Rs. 8—one rupee less than what the Thotti gets—requested the Head of the Department that his pay may

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be increased by Rs. 2, the petition was, with the recommendation to raise it to Rs. 12, forwarded by the Head of the Department to the Government, who, in their turn, submitted the proposal to the deliberate consideration and deep contemplation of the Special Finance Committee! What a desire to be economical. At the same time we see the Government waiting to see if there is any vacancy anywhere to put in their camp-followers. A series of big appointments carrying more than Rs. 100 have been filled up in the State with indecent haste. Now, the Government does not seem to attach much importance to the Special Finance Committee. So far as we are concerned, if the Government takes its own course, and attaches no importance to the Special Finance Committee, then we can utilise our time for some more useful purpose than acting as members of such a Committee. If, on the other hand, the Government thinks that we have passed the stage of childhood, and we know something of what we are doing, and if they are prepared to show some respect to our considered opinion, then I say it is not proper to anticipate our recommendations. The state of affairs took such a shape that at one time we decided to tender our resignations. But, on further consideration, realising to what difficulties the Finance Committee will be put to, we agreed to continue the work, however unpleasant it might have been rendered by the questionable tactics of the Government. I enter my emphatic protest against the way in which we have been treated and also against the policy of the Government. in creating posts for the benefit of those who are in their favour.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I rise to support the motion. The matter of increasing the pay of the subordinate officials of the State has been brought to the attention of the Government at the very first session of this Council. About 2 years have elapsed since then, and the Government have not passed any orders regarding this matter. At the last budget session I had moved a motion regarding this matter, and the Government said that they would seriously consider the matter and pass orders. Till to-day, as far as my knowledge goes, the Government have passed no orders regarding this matter; and the people who are getting only a few rupees monthly, doing hard work from morning till evening, are being reduced to starvation. They are becoming unfit to do the work which is entrusted to them. It should not be the policy of the Government to starve the poor, ill-paid servants of the State, whose interests the Government should look to more than the public or the Members of this Council. As they are now in a way starving, the Government should stand up, and the officials, who are Heads of Departments, should also stand up and fight and fight till their pay is increased substantially. But the Government and the Heads of Departments are sleeping over this matter. They are not taking any active steps. If any application or petition is sent for increasing their pay, it is thrown into the waste-paper basket, whereas, on the other hand, when the Head of a Department wants increased pay,

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the Government do not hesitate to increase his pay. They do not ask the Finance Committee which has been appointed by the Government to look into such a matter. Neither do they consult the Members of this Council. Further, they create new appointments and also increase the pay of highly paid officers. The Government had very good opportunities to know the opinion of this House in this matter. It was pointed out in this Council that the Government have got a right to move resolutions and know the opinion of this House about them. If the Government wanted to create any new appointment, it could have moved a resolution in this House in order to ascertain the sense of the House. The Government should have acted in this way. The Government have thrown to the winds not only the Special Finance Committee but also the opinion of the non-official Members of the Council who are the representatives of the people.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, though I share much of the feelings of the Hon'ble Members who spoke on this side of the House, I feel called upon to support the Government in regard to this motion that has been made by the Secretary to the Government. One of the main charges brought against the Government is that certain new appointments have been made. I ask my friends on this side to state how many there are. We are spending nearly 23 lakhs of rupees a year over appointments. How many have been newly made by the Government? We can count them on the fingers, and your fingers will not be consumed. Is that a great mistake on the part of the Government who have to carry on the administrative machinery from day to day. (*Hear, hear.*) Sir, if you refer the question to the Special Finance Committee, would the Special Finance Committee be able to answer that question as soon as you want it to be answered?

President.—Suppose we say it is an urgent matter, and we want the answer in 3 days, will they not do it?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I am coming to that, Sir. Now, the creation of offices depends upon the finances of the Government taken as a whole. There may be necessity, but to give effect to that necessity we must take into consideration our finances. Therefore, the Special Finance Committee will not be justified in making any recommendation about the creation or about the abolition of any post without seeing whether the Government stands on its own legs in regard to its finances. Therefore, it is my deliberate opinion that the Finance Committee would not have been justified in making any specific recommendation in regard to the abolition or creation of any appointment. Therefore, I think that the Government is amply justified in making these appointments, and the Government have safeguarded their position by making the appointments temporary.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Not at all. They would have been wiser, if they had made it temporary.

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Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—We object not to the man who is appointed but to the appointment. The appointment is not stated to be probationary.

President.—If there is no man for the appointment, you may abolish the post. If only the present man is permanent, there is difficulty. When a man is appointed on probation, and when the appointment is not necessary, he may be asked to go away. There is no difficulty.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I understand you, Sir.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—So that, Sir, I do not think that the Government which disburses nearly 23 lakhs of rupees every year to the Government servants can be found fault with in having created a few, 3 or 4, petty appointments for the purpose of the service. And we have been assured, Sir, that, these appointments are temporary. It is my opinion that, if this matter had been referred to the Special Finance Committee for its opinion with regard to the necessity of this appointment, they would not have been able to give an opinion before they submitted their final Report. The question of the Tramway Department stands on quite a different footing. There we had to deal with a large question which had been troubling the Government for a long number of years, and we were not concerned with any official appointments. We are only concerned with the spending of money year after year. There it was a question of saving and not spending. The next point was that, while the Government created these appointments, they did not raise the pay of the low-paid officers. If the Government had done this, I would have been only very glad. But, Sir, how many low-paid servants are there? If we add two rupees monthly to their pay, the increase will run to lakhs. Can the Government do it by a stroke of their pen? Certainly, the Government will not be justified. Therefore, those two charges that have been raised cannot stand. For these reasons I support the Demand.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I move that the question be put to the vote of the House.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Sir, I second it.

The closure motion was put to the vote of the House and carried.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—There is my cut motion.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—There is my motion also.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I move to pass on with the discussion.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No. You cannot move it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We have many important questions to discuss.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—There is no explanation forthcoming to the question which I asked.

President.—Why do you press it?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—So that I may have an opportunity to withdraw it. The Government is silent on the point.

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President.—These token motions are not generally put to votes. If you want any information, it will be given. If you are not satisfied, I may put the motions to the vote of the House.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Only we want an explanation. I would bring to the notice of the Government that such appointments should not be made without referring them to the Special Finance Committee. All such matters should be referred to it.

President.—Certain matters are referred to the Special Finance Committee for discussion, and some are not. In all these matters the Government must use some discretion. They considered certain matters, and referred them to the Finance Committee; in all other matters the Government must be expected to act with some sense of responsibility, and the Government realises its responsibility in doing all these things. You say you were not given proper consideration and treatment. But there was no such idea on the part of the Government. Certain facts were placed before the Committee, and the Government considered it proper to make the appointments without referring them to the Committee. There may be difference of opinion in all these matters. What is it that the Government have to say? I do not know what explanation you want from the Government.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—We do not want the Government to think alone in these matters. On the other hand, we want the Government to take us also into confidence.

President.—But there are matters in which they think that no reference need be made. That is the situation with the Government.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Agreeably to your wish, withdraw the motion.

The motion was withdrawn with leave.

President.—Have all of you withdrawn?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No, Sir. I have not withdrawn. I did not speak. I did not get an opportunity. I did not take part, because others were talking about important matters. That is why I kept silent in the debate. My motion should not be put, because it is a separate motion. Mr. Padmanabha Menon and Mr. S. F. Nunez spoke on the first motion. I have my motion as a separate one. It is a separate question altogether.

President.—We will now stop here.

The House rose for lunch, and met again at 3. p. m., when the Deputy President presided.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I have the privilege of moving the first cut motion on a Government Demand, when one of our elected Members, our Deputy President, is occupying the Chair.

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I consider it a great privilege to have an elected Member as the President.

Now, I shall plunge into my subject. My cut motion is to reduce one rupee from the Demand of Rs. 1,000 asked for under "General Administration—Huzur Secretariat," for the Special Finance Committee appointed by the Government. Sir, the Special Finance Committee is absolutely a creature of the Government. It is not a Committee with whose appointment this House is concerned at all. The House had no hand in the creation of the Committee. I do not see what right there is in the members of that Committee grumbling in this House with reference to indignity for the slight and for their being ignored. My complaint is, Sir, that these matters are not referred to the Committee of this House, the Standing Finance Committee. This House has been ignored in the matter of supplementary grants. No supplementary grant that comes here without a reference to the Special Finance Committee of this House will ever have the support from any Member who feels his duty towards this House.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—A word of explanation. These motions were placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

President.—Then there is no room for complaint, as they were placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—All Demands for Ssupplementary Grants must be placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

President.—Mr. Salem, don't make any attacks without knowing the facts.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I have considered this point whether they have been placed before the Committee. Am I to understand the Secretary to the Council saying that the Demand for which the Special Finance Committee was grumbling was placed before it? I was not speaking upon this Demand being placed before the Standing Finance Committee. I think the Secretary has been simply taking the wind from my mouth. I was saying that these Demands were not placed before the Standing Finance Committee, even though appointments were made without reference to the Special Finance Committee.

President.—At least that was not what I understood from your speech. We will try to understand you properly.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—If you speak properly, then, we shall I be able to understand you properly.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Some of the Members of the Special Finance Committee were saying that they have been ignored, and that they have not been referred to in the matter of appointments. I have nothing to do with that matter. As a rule, when money matters are concerned, this House should be consult-

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ed, and the Special Finance Committee should also have been consulted. I understand that the Special Finance Committee has not been consulted with reference to three appointments that have been created lately. For that no supplementary demand is made. If it comes here in that nature, it should never be allowed. I have stated on many previous occasions that the Government should not bring in such supplementary grants, and I find that supplementary grants are demanded. I have got several points to run over.

The word "sympathy" has grown greasy in the mouths of the Government. We find that the Government have been saying that they are sympathe- tically considering the claims of the low-paid servants. The word " sympathetically" is greasy. To those who are willing to take oil baths daily, it is quite possible. The Government is something like a chloroformed being which is not in a posi- tion to know what operations are taking place on its body.

Again, Sir, the Government is antedeluvian, irresponsible, and irresponsive to the demands of the representatives of the people and the public at large. Sir, we have given to the Diwan of Cochin from this House on the 3rd of August 1926, a petition, a memorial and a scheme for responsible government, and demands for an elected President have come from all over the country, and I find that the Government is absolutely silent and callous about it. I wish to call attention to these facts as well.

My other point is that the bureaucracy of Cochin is not taking pains to remedy the greatly inadequate maintenance given to subordinates, and that their subordinates do not receive any attention at their hands, in spite of complaints from them, in spite of printed pamphlets circulated in the country, and when the subordinates are starving and cannot make both ends meet they are shutting them out. This is absolutely callous. Again, Sir, I say that the answers are being bottled here, and resolutions are guillotined by the General Administration, and very many important matters are not coming before this House in right time, and when they do, it is too late to have any real value.

Again, Sir, I will ask you to draw the attention of the Government as to how they consult the wishes of this House, before they ask for any grant. Sir, we have got now 25 days for the sitting of this House, and we know most important matters in the shape of resolutions and Bills cannot be got through. Why should not this House be allowed to sit more often and for more days, to get through all the work that we have to do ?

Sir, I can see that there is some flutter in the official block here that they will not find time to sit here. That is the very reason for a responsible government. We want Ministers here.

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We do not want to see Government servants leaving off their legitimate duties and sitting in this House. I request the Government to take early steps to introduce responsible government, and fill those seats with Ministers, Secretaries and Parliamentary Secretaries, who will do their duty properly and with pleasure.

President.—Till then, you are not going to allow this Demand. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I ask you to consider these things. Making these Supplementary Demands is giving the Members an opportunity to criticise the administration. If no Demands are made, we get no chance. With these few remarks, I should fervently hope that the House would grant them. This Demand is a particular matter for the Special Finance Committee which the Government has created, and which is doing work in different directions. I do not press this motion to a division.

President.—Please keep your speeches to the point at issue.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—After having had his say in his most eloquent way, criticising with all force the administration, he quietly withdraws his motion. I think he is afraid of getting a smart answer from the Government Members.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I do not withdraw. The officials may have their say.

President.—You have withdrawn the motion?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Can a Member withdraw a motion without the consent of this House?

President.—The motion has not been seconded.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I second the motion.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The Secretary was vehement in stating that the Government have no chance to reply to the various criticisms. He may reply, if necessary.

President.—No reply is necessary, according to them.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In spite of the protest from the Secretary to the Council?

The Demand for a Supplementary Grant of Rs. 1,000 under "General Administration—Huzur Secretariat—Special Finance Committee" was put to votes and carried.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Now, I bring to the notice of this House that in Travancore they publish the minutes of the Standing Finance Committee along with the Proceedings of the Council. In our report, till now it has not been published.

President.—That may be necessary.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Yes.

President.—The Standing Finance Committee is one appointed by the Council. I will inform the Diwan-President

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of this, and he may consider that point. I cannot give an off-hand answer now.

Demand IX—Forests—Rs. 7,652.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 7,652 to be spent for collection of timber to be sold. The budget grant passed in Karkadagam last was Rs. 27,000 for the collection of teak, rosewood and jungle-wood, and according to the removal as per demand and exigency, the total amount to be spent comes to Rs. 34,652. Setting aside the grant of Rs. 27,000, the balance is Rs. 7,652 which I ask for now. The different items of the Demand are for the removal of 2,000 candies of teak and rosewood, 4,608 candies of jungle-wood. Of these, all but 2,500 candies of jungle-wood had been covered by sanction in the budget. The balance is 2,108 candies of erul and erul posts to be collected and to be delivered to our Public Works Department and the Cochin Electric Co., Ltd., respectively. The cost of collection of 2,000 candies comes to Rs. 11,500, and the selling rate Rs. 18, minimum at Chalakkudi. The cost of collection, the Tramway charges, the seigniorage, all told comes to Rs. 15—4—6 against a minimum of Rs. 18. I expect to sell over. Then there is about 100 and odd candies of erul which have to be supplied to the Cochin Electric Co., Ltd. and the cost of collection comes to Rs. 1,125. The selling rate of that is Rs. 15—8—0 at Chalakkudi. The total amount of revenue on both these items is about 39,900 against an expenditure of 12,725. I request the House will grant the Demand

Motion No. 4.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,652 under "IX—Forests A. 1" by one rupee.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I have tabled this token motion to call attention to the fact that a large quantity of rosewood has been under contract to be supplied from the forests of Cochin to a particular contractor. I am not concerned with names, and I do not want to enter into the merits of any particular contractor. But this contract is standing in the way of people inside the Cochin State getting rosewood from our forests. There are many people who are willing and anxious to get rosewood from our forests, and they cannot get any rosewood till this contract is over. This particular contract, I understand, has got still a large balance to be supplied to fulfil it, and Cochinites, who are coming forward for rosewood, cannot get rosewood from the forests. It is stated, till this contract is fulfilled, no rosewood could be got. That seems to me a very great hardship. If there is sufficient and more in the forests to fulfil that contract, I do not see why the extra quantity that is available cannot be supplied to applicants who want rosewood. I also under-

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